



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

DRAFT REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

JULY 30, 2019

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report of the City of Mount Vernon Charter Revision Commission has been prepared for the primary purpose of presenting four (4) proposals that would serve to amend certain aspects of the City Charter. The overarching goals of these proposed revisions are to improve the operational effectiveness and efficiency of City government and position Mount Vernon to be more competitive with surrounding municipalities for future economic development opportunities by (a) introducing heightened financial controls and accountability and (b) mandating the creation of a comprehensive land use plan that would be subject to periodic review and modification. It should be noted that the members of the Commission and its Advisory Committee were carefully selected to provide for diversity of thought, as well as geographic, gender and racial diversity, and different experiences that would reflect consideration of differing perspectives. Given the diverse composition of our community, it was felt this facet of the initiative was important.

A thoughtfully considered and adopted methodology was employed by the Commission to determine, vet, and prioritize potential recommendations. This approach included, among other elements, outreach to and receipt of input from certain City government officials regarding issues under the current Charter, as well as from representatives from certain other municipalities in Westchester County of structural differences between their Charters and processes and the Mount Vernon Charter. Consideration of these inputs, coupled with review of the provisions of the Charter itself and respectful discussion and debate among the Commission members, has culminated in the four (4) recommendations summarized below and more fully set forth in the Recommendations section of this report:

- Proposal requiring that an independent annual audit of city government accounts and financial records be performed and completed by a qualified certified public accountant following the close of each fiscal year.
- Proposal requiring the Mount Vernon Planning Board to prepare and keep up-to-date a comprehensive master plan for the development of the City.
- Proposal requiring the Comptroller to issue quarterly financial reports to the Mayor and the City Council concerning the City's year-to-date and projected fiscal condition, as of March thirty-first, June thirtieth, September thirtieth and December thirty-first, in relation to the annual budget adopted for that fiscal year and to publish those reports on the City's public website.
- Proposal requiring the establishment of a City funded Charter Revision Commission for the purpose of reviewing the City Charter every ten years, funded in a manner sufficient to cover practical expenses for implementing such a review.

ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF COMMISSION

Background¹

Over time there has been much work done on the process of reviewing and revising a city charter. In the State of New York, one of the foremost resources for understanding when, why and how to undertake a Charter review and revision is, “Revising Charters in New York State,” by James A. Coon. For the purposes of background, we have included several sections from, “Revising Charters in New York State,” below - including: what is a city charter and why should cities undertake charter revision. Additionally, we have included a section on what qualities make a good charter from The National Civic League’s, “Guide for Charter Commissions 6E.”

“What is a city charter?” It is the basic document that defines the organization, powers, functions and essential procedures of the city government. It is comparable to the State Constitution and to the Constitution of the United States. The charter is, therefore, the most important single law of any city.”

“Why should cities undertake charter revision?” There are several reasons, generally stemming from the fact that a charter affects everything the city government does. It provides the basis for most municipal regulatory functions and for the delivery of municipal services. An obsolete charter can be responsible for many municipal problems. If it contains provisions which are unworkable under current conditions, municipal officials may have to make a difficult choice between being responsible for inferior service delivery or inviting legal challenge for deliberate, albeit well-meaning, deviation from the law. Until such provisions are eliminated, the most competent officials will be unable to carry out their responsibilities both efficiently and legally.”

“Even though a charter may not be so obsolete as to present dilemmas of conscience, revision may well lay the basis for improved governmental operations. A good charter should provide a clear distribution of the powers of city government and clear descriptions of the duties and powers of municipal officials. A common failing of many city charters which were written prior to the early 1960s is that they often covered every detail of city operations, perhaps in an attempt to ensure certain home rule powers. The length and detail of those

¹ Source: [New York State Department of State, Revising City Charters in New York State](#) - James A. Coon, Local Government Technical Series, at 3 (2015)

older documents tend to discourage citizen interest and understanding. Now that home rule is more securely established, charters can be (and often are) used to delineate basic powers and structure while leaving the details of operation to be covered in an administrative code. It is essential for effective citizen participation that the general public be able to understand the basic document of their municipal government.”

“Many existing charters have been weakened and complicated by frequent piecemeal revisions over many years. They may need comprehensive review to determine the extent of revision required and to ensure internal consistency. Charter revision can result in improved city government organization and operations. Reconsideration of governmental structure can result in elimination of costly unproductive positions. Clear delineation of lines of responsibility and authority facilitates the work of municipal officials, legislative as well as executive.”

“What Qualities Make a Good Charter?”² A charter is not only used by attorneys. It is used by a cross-section of the community - elected officials, government employees, and everyday citizens. Therefore, the language used and writing style employed should be user-friendly and easily understood by an average citizen.”

“The better a charter is, the easier it will be for public leaders and officials to operate a proactive and successful local government. A good charter functions as a harmonizing, integrating, and controlling document. Therefore, the qualities of a good charter are worthy of consideration. Good local government charters are (1) straightforward; (2) consistent; (3) thorough, but not exhaustive; (4) flexible; and (5) focused on the fundamentals.”

“There are many areas the Charter may regulate, but there are some limits. Here are a few examples:

The Charter CAN:

- Alter a form of government so the new form is better aligned with the preferences of citizens.
- Restrict or increase options available to governmental leaders.

² Source: [Guide for Charter Commissions 6E](#) - National Civic League

- Alter electoral representation.
- Clarify ambiguity or confusion caused by existing charter language.
- Redistribute powers among elected officials, appointed officials, and governing bodies as well as between city officials and citizens.
- Set the stage for governmental leaders to achieve desired changes.
- Convert elected governmental positions to appointed positions or vice versa.

The Charter CAN'T:

- Automatically increase the quality of governmental products and services.
- Eliminate political in-fighting and make elected officials achieve consensus (although governmental form can affect the likelihood of conflict).
- Expand the scope of municipal powers in states without home rule.
- Jumpstart the local economy.
- Decrease local crime.
- Improve the school system.
- Stop a controversial public project.
- Change or eliminate state-mandated activities.”

Mission Statement

To improve Mount Vernon City government structures, processes, and systems under the Charter for the City of Mount Vernon to better serve the needs of the people of Mount Vernon.

Purpose

Consistent with its mission statement, the purpose of the Commission is to:

1. Review the entire Charter for the City.
2. Consider the adequacy of the current form of City government under the Charter; and the intra-municipal relationship of the City's elected branches of government under the Charter.
3. Solicit input from government officials and others.
4. Consider and propose one or more amendments or revisions to the Charter that the Commission may determine and recommend as appropriate to facilitate the delivery of municipal services to the City's residents, or so that City government may be more efficient, effective, and responsive to serve the residents of Mount Vernon.

5. Make a preliminary report with the findings and proposals of the Commission. Such proposed amendments or revisions to the Charter as may be determined and recommended by the Commission will then be prepared for ballot proposals and appropriately filed in the office of the City clerk for submission to the electors of Mount Vernon.

Code of Conduct

The Commission is committed to maintain a professional level of courtesy, respect, objectivity, and fairness in all of its activities. Members of the Commission are accountable to adhere to this standard of conduct, which includes the responsibility of all members to:

1. Participate constructively in Commission activities for the benefit of the Commission and the Commission process in a lawful, ethical, and justifiable manner.
2. Ensure that Commission operations are conducted in an efficient and effective manner, while participating actively and cooperatively with other members, consistent with the mission and purpose of the Commission.
3. Maintain and use discretion as it relates to Commission matters, deliberations, and discussions, not misuse any information obtained as a member of the Commission, and not disseminate or disclose any such Commission information except as may be authorized by and in accordance with the direction of the Commission or the Commission Chair.
4. Refer media, press inquiries, or comment relating to the Commission or its activities to the Commission Chair, and refrain from participating in online forums or social media regarding Commission matters or activities.

The expectation of the Commission is that the members of the Advisory Committee to the Commission will abide by this code of conduct in their involvement with and participation in Commission matters. To the extent members may be unsure or have questions regarding their conduct or activities, the member should contact the Commission Chair.

The Commission

The effort to form the Commission was officially initiated by the Mount Vernon Mayor's Office pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law (MHR) Section 36(4) on May 20, 2019 (see **Appendix B** for letter) with the appointment of Chairman, **Derickson K.**

Lawrence. The City of Mount Vernon Charter Revision Commission (“Charter Revision Commission” or “Commission”) represents a broad range of residents of Mount Vernon from varied backgrounds and geographic locations, reflecting the diversity and strength of the City.

Advisory Committee

The work of the Charter Revision Commission was aided by an Advisory Committee consisting of citizen volunteers, co-chaired by:

New York State Assemblyman, **J. Gary Pretlow**
Westchester County Legislator, **Lyndon D. Williams**

Resources

The Mount Vernon Charter Revision Commission was supported by the time and work effort dedicated by Charter Commission and Advisory Committee Members. Meeting space was donated by the Mount Vernon Board of Education, The Mount Vernon Doles Recreation Center, and 111 East Sanford Blvd which was generously donated by an Advisory Committee member.

Lester Steinman, a partner in the firm of McCarthy Fingar, LLP, who practices municipal law and land use for local governments and served as counsel to Westchester County Charter Revision Commission, provided limited ad hoc support to the Commission. Technical support, including videography, was provided at times by Geoff Monroe and photography was provided by Frank Nonni.

Constraints

Financial

Unlike most Charter Revision Commissions, the Mount Vernon Charter Revision Commission was not supported with municipal funds and thus, operated without a budget for the duration. Being unfunded impacted the Commission’s ability to hire consultants, print materials, and establish a public website. The Commission’s lack of financial resources directly limited its ability to operate optimally.

Political Environment

The Charter Revision Commission operated in a volatile political environment, which included a contentious democratic primary, political infighting, and legal turmoil (see **Appendix C** for related press articles).

Timeline

Typically, the best practice revision of a City's Charter can take 1-2 years. Due to the financial constraints and contentious political environment, the Commission had to make two critical decisions:

- 1) Whether to place ballot propositions on the 2019 or 2020 ballot.
- 2) Based on that decision, the Commission had to calibrate the depth, breadth, and feasibility of our objectives.

The decision reached was to move forward with a November 2019 ballot date by a vote of 10-1 of the Commission. At the time of the vote, the Commission agreed that it had identified enough key issues and findings to support a few impactful and substantive ballot initiatives.

Hearings

Formation

May 22th, Private meeting space at 111 East Sanford Blvd.

Topic – Public announcement of Commission

May 30th, Private meeting space at 111 East Sanford Blvd.

Topic – Public announcement of the Advisory Committee

Discovery

June 6, Mount Vernon Board of Education, 165 N. Columbus Ave.

Brian G. Johnson, CMV Corporate Counsel – Issues Identified

Loretta Hottinger, CMV Former Corporate Counsel – Issues Identified

June 20, Doles Recreation Center, 250 South 6th Ave.

Janice Duarte, CMV Current City Councilwoman – Issues Identified

Rev. Darren Morton, CMV Recreation Commissioner – Issues Identified

June 27, Doles Recreation Center, 250 South 6th Ave.

Chantelle Okarter & William Long, CMV Commissioner of Planning – Issues Identified
Meeting to review preliminary findings and identify analysis process

Peer Review

June 12, Doles Recreation Center, 250 South 6th Ave.

Chuck Strome, New Rochelle City Manager – Solution Alternatives

June 27, Doles Recreation Center, 250 South 6th Ave.

City of White Plains – City Manager – Solution Alternatives

July 11, Doles Recreation Center, 250 South 6th Ave.

Ben Boykin, Chairman, Westchester Board of County Legislators – Solution Alternatives
Dennis Powers, Former White Plains, City Councilman – Solution Alternatives
Stephen Altieri, Town Administrator, Town of Mamaroneck – Solution Alternatives

July 15, Mount Vernon Board of Education, 165 N. Columbus Ave.

Reginald Lafayette, Westchester County Democratic Chairman who is also the Mount
Vernon Democratic City Committee Chairman – Elections Testimony
Maureen Walker, Former Comptroller, City of Mount Vernon

Work Sessions

July 22, Board of Education, 165 N. Columbus Ave.

July 29, Board of Education, 165 N. Columbus Ave.

Public Hearings and Presentation of Draft Report

August 1, Mount Vernon Public Library (Fiction Room), 28 S 1st Ave. at 1pm

August 1, Board of Education, 165 N. Columbus Ave. at 6:30pm

Public Access

A Facebook page was created on May 23, 2019 posting announcements about hearing dates and their locations at the Doles Center, Board of Education building, or 111 East Sanford Boulevard in Mount Vernon. Due to budget constraints, the Commission was limited in creating a comprehensive communications plan and relied on free services including Facebook and Google for meeting notifications and public outreach.

On July 19, 2019, the Commission reached out through Facebook to the following community pages asking to build awareness to members and followers. This list included but was not limited to:

- United Citizens for Mount Vernon
- City of Mount Vernon, NY
- lloventvernonny.com
- Mount Vernon City School District
- Mount Vernon Strong
- Mount Vernon Public Library
- Mayor Richard Thomas
- Shawyn Patterson-Howard for Mayor
- Andre Wallace
- MOUNT VERNON EXPOSED
- NextDoor - Neighborhood associations and community groups

The Process

The methodology utilized by the Mount Vernon Charter Revision Commission was modeled after the Westchester County Charter Revision process. The steps involved a discovery process that included interviewing key stakeholders within City government to identify the key issues and potential problem areas that exist within the City Charter. Secondly, we received testimony from certain peer communities in Westchester County in an effort to extract best practices that may be relevant to the circumstances of the City of Mount Vernon. In typical funded charter revision processes, Commissions often hire subject matter experts to provide solution alternatives for best-practices, however, due to the financial constraints referenced above, the Mount Vernon Commission relied on the first-level and direct testimony from the source: officials from the City of White Plains, the City of New Rochelle, and the Town of Mamaroneck.

Concurrent with the discovery phase, Commission members engaged in the distillation of testimony to identify certain key issues that would subsequently be analyzed using the five-step methodology for identifying and prioritizing recommendations.

Five-Step Methodology

1. Provide background & state the problem (determine what problem needs to be solved).
2. Identify all places in the charter that mentions and addresses the problem.
3. Conduct analysis -- What are the implications of the problem/ Why should voters care?
4. Arrive at a conclusion.
5. Provide recommendation options, with pros and cons for each.

Focus Criteria and Adoption of Focus Areas

In May 2019, the Commission adopted the following focus groups for Commission and Advisory Committee members to consider in their review and evaluation in order to formulate the Commission's recommendations:

- Governance & Finance
- Land Use
- Election

APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS

Ballot Question: # 1: Comprehensive Plan

Shall the City Charter mandate that the City Council pass an ordinance to fund and adopt a Comprehensive Plan that will be reviewed and updated at least every ten (10) years?

Abstract

This proposal amends the City Charter to require that the City Council pass an ordinance to fund and adopt a Comprehensive Plan that will be reviewed and updated at least every ten (10) years. It would then be reviewed on a set time table. The amendment permits the comprehensive plan to be updated more frequently, if necessary. The Comprehensive Plan, properly executed, reviewed and updated periodically, would set the City's vision for its economic development and growth. The document would also identify new revenue streams for untapped economic markets which will reduce the tax burden on residential property owners. The Comprehensive Plan will review, outline and define all areas of City functioning as it relates to municipal land use matters.

Revision to the City Charter to be Presented to the Electorate:

Note: Proposed new matter is underlined. Matter proposed for deletion is [bracketed].

Article XI-A, Section 146, Comprehensive Plan

The City Council shall pass an ordinance to adopt a Comprehensive Plan that will be updated and reviewed at least once every ten (10) years. Such Plans shall be consistent with General City Law Section 28-A. The cost of the Comprehensive Plan shall constitute a charge upon the general funds of the City. The Planning Commissioner shall prepare, develop, implement and update the Comprehensive Plan with input and support from the Planning Board, Zoning Board, and applicable City departments and agencies, and with input from the community for the development and improvement of the City, which Comprehensive Plan shall include, but not be limited to, reports and data on the following matters: (i) transportation; (ii) socio demographics; (iii) economic development; (vii) community facilities; (viii) land use and zoning; (ix) capital projects; (x) environment sustainability; and (xi) historic preservation. The

Comprehensive Plan shall also include a specific policy statement indicating the relationship of the proposed development of the municipality as developed in the Comprehensive Plan to; (i) master plans of contiguous municipalities; (ii) the master plan of the county; (iii) any regional master plans; and (iv) any statewide master plans. The Comprehensive Plan shall commence in the year 2020, and be completed as soon as reasonably possible.

Ballot Question: # 2: Independent Audit

Shall the City Charter be revised to require that an independent annual audit of City accounts and other evidences of financial transactions of City government, including separate audits of the accounts of the Urban Renewal Agency, the Industrial Development Agency, and the Board of Water Supply, be made following the close of each fiscal year by an independent qualified certified public accounting firm?

Abstract

This proposal would amend the City Charter to require that an independent annual audit of City government accounts and financial records be performed and completed following the close of each fiscal year. This would include separate annual audits of the accounts of the Urban Renewal Agency, the Industrial Development Agency, and the Board of Water Supply. Such audits would be made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. The proposal would also require that such audits be performed by an independent qualified certified public accounting firm, selected by the Board of Estimate and Contract, and that the accounting firm shall be changed at the latest every five (5) years. In addition, the proposal would require that the Department of Finance and the Comptroller provide access to all accounts and records required by the accounting firm to perform and complete such audits; and that the completed audit report shall be made available for public review.

Revision to the City Charter to be Presented to the Electorate:

Note: Proposed new matter is underlined. Matter proposed for deletion is [bracketed].

Article VIII. Section 98. Independent Audit

An independent annual audit shall be made of City accounts and other evidences of financial transactions of the City government, following the close of each fiscal year, and shall include separate audits of the accounts of the Urban Renewal Agency, the Industrial Development Agency, and the Board of Water Supply, and audits of any agencies of the City that may be necessary in order to complete the independent annual audit. Such audits shall be made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. An independent qualified certified public accounting firm, selected by the Board of Estimate and Contract, shall make such audits, and such accounting firm shall

be changed not later than every five (5) years. The Department of Finance and the Comptroller shall, at the close of each fiscal year, provide access to all records and accounts required by such independent certified public accounting firm to perform and complete such audits. The audit report prepared by the independent certified public accounting firm shall be submitted to the City Council, the Office of the Mayor, and the Comptroller, and the completed audit report shall be made available for public review. Such independent annual audits shall not preclude the Comptroller from making periodic and yearly internal audits of the accounts of all departments and administrative officials.

Ballot Question: # 3: Periodic Fiscal Reports from the Comptroller

Shall the City Charter mandate the Comptroller to issue quarterly financial reports showing the City's fiscal condition in relation to the annual budget adopted for that fiscal year. Said quarterly reports should also include the Board of Water Supply, Urban Renewal Agency, and the Industrial Development Agency?

Abstract

The regular issuance of financial reports can improve legislative oversight, add transparency, and promote public understanding of the City's fiscal condition. Presently, the City's Charter does not require the Comptroller to produce quarterly financial reports, although such reports were compiled in past years. In recommending the proposal, the Commission underscored the importance of ensuring that the effort include all the City's agencies that are necessary to complete its audits; and that such quarterly reports be made available to the public in an accessible manner. Although the preparation and publication of quarterly reports will require additional staff resources, this information is invaluable for audit prep, analysis and oversight.

Revision to the City Charter to be Presented to the Electorate:

Note: Proposed new matter is underlined. Matter proposed for deletion is [bracketed].

Article VIII, Section 91-b, Quarterly Fiscal Reports

The Comptroller shall issue quarterly reports to the Mayor and the City Council concerning the City's year- to- date and projected fiscal condition, as of March thirty-first, June thirtieth, September thirtieth, and December thirty-first of each fiscal year for all City departments and agencies. Quarterly reporting requirements shall also include the Board of Water Supply, the Urban Renewal Agency, and the Industrial Development Agency which are covered under this provision subject to their independent reporting requirements.

Ballot Question: #4: Charter Commission

Shall the City Charter mandate the appointment of a City funded Charter Commission pursuant to the applicable provisions of New York law for the purpose of reviewing the City Charter at least every (10) ten years?

Abstract

Our Charter specifies no process for regular periodic review of its provisions. The current Charter Revision Commission was established by action of the Mayor pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law Section 36(4). The Commission believes that a review of the City Charter should take place on a regular periodic basis.

Considering changing social and economic conditions as well as the development of governance practices, the Commission proposes periodic consideration to fund a Charter Commission comprised of an appointed group of interested engaged City residents with diverse perspectives who are not involved in day-to-day governance.

Revision to the City Charter to be Presented to the Electorate:

Note: Proposed new matter is underlined. Matter proposed for deletion is [bracketed].

Article XVIII. Section 268. Charter Commission

There shall be an appointment of a Charter Commission pursuant to applicable provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law for the purpose of reviewing the City Charter at least every ten years, or at such earlier date or time period as may be determined by the City Council or by the Mayor. Such Charter Commission shall be funded as may be reasonably necessary to conduct its business effectively.

WITHDRAWN RECOMMENDATIONS

#1: DISAPPROVED

Add language providing for the establishment of a City-Council approved Accounts Payable Policy and Procedure

The issue was considered by the Commission and it was believed that further review and input would be appropriate.

#2: DISAPPROVED

Establish a Vacant Property Registration

While so-called “zombie” properties are top of mind for many within the City and are the source of headlines in the press, it was determined by the commission that more research was needed to discern potential legal and operational challenges that changes to the current Charter might cause.

#3: DISAPPROVED

Clarify Article IV Section 25 which provides for the forfeiture of office or employment by any officer of employee who is found guilty of a misdemeanor.

It appears that this provision has been a source of actual or potential litigation. The Commission’s recommendation is that this provision should be considered in the future after further study.

CERTAIN ISSUES FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE REFERENDUM AND KEY LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

- Consider the study of the position of Comptroller as an appointed office.
- Consider the elimination of the Board of Estimate and Contract.
- Consider the merits of whether City Council members being representative of districts instead of “at large”.
- Consider the merits of runoff elections in the case of mayoral primary elections that are not won with a clear mandate.
- Consider the potential of a conflict of interest that may occur when current elected or appointed municipal officials of the City, choose to seek another elected office within the City.
- Consider the potential of alternative dispute resolution as a means to internally address disputes that may arise out of conflict of interest scenarios involving Corporation Counsel and City Council.
- Consider the option for an alternate annual estimate to be enacted, if no annual estimate is adopted at the end of the fiscal year.
- Consider updating language pronouns and terminology to be gender neutral.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Public Invitation to participate in Charter Revision Commission

Appendix B: Formation letters from City Council and Mayor's Office

Appendix C: Press coverage of Mount Vernon political environment (to be inserted)

Appendix D: Copies of email invitations to city officials and guest speakers (to be inserted)

Appendix A: Public Invitation to participate in Charter Revision Commission

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, NY
EXECUTIVE ACTION

CHARTER REVISION THE PROCESS

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019

6:30PM

111 East Sanford Blvd

Mount Vernon, NY 10550

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Lester Steinman, Esq.

Former Counsel to Westchester County

Charter Revision Commission

Charter Revisions in the states of NY and CT

Derickson K. Lawrence

Former co-Vice Chair- Westchester County

Charter Revision Commission

What is the City Charter?

What role can Mount Vernon residents play in revising the City Charter?

How will they be chosen? How will they organize?

Who gets the final say?

CITIZENS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN
SERVING SHOULD SEND THEIR RESUMES
TO CMVCHARTERREVISION@GMAIL.COM

DEADLINE FOR RESUMES:

APRIL 19, 2019

RSVP:

CMVCHARTERREVISION@GMAIL.COM
REQUESTED BECAUSE OF
SPACE LIMITATIONS.



Appendix B: Formation letters from City Council and Mayor's Office

RECEIVED
CITY OF MOUNT VERNON
LAW DEPARTMENT
2019 MAY 20 P 12: 43



2019 MAY 20 P 12: 14

RICHARD THOMAS
MAYOR

May 20, 2019

Honorable Members of the City Council
City Hall – 1 Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, New York 10550

Re: City of Mount Vernon Charter Revision Commission

To the Honorable Members of the City Council:

By the powers invested in me pursuant to New York State Municipal Home Rule Law (MHR) Section 36(4), I hereby formally establish the City of Mount Vernon Charter Revision Commission. Please find below the official name of the Commission, along with the cited authority to form the Commission and the Commission's stated purpose. Also, please find attached a copy of the required Certificate of Appointment that I am submitting to the City Clerk as required by law.

Name:

City of Mount Vernon Charter Revision Commission ("Charter Revision Commission" or "CMVCRC")

Formation:

This Charter Revision Commission is hereby formed, and the names of the members to constitute said Charter Revision Commission and the officers thereof are hereby specified as set forth in the attached Certificate of Appointment, by the Mayor of the City of Mount Vernon, New York ("City of Mount Vernon" or "City") pursuant to (MHR) Section 36(4), (5) and (6).

Purpose:

The purpose of the CMVCRC is to:

- i. Undertake a review of the existing Charter of the City of Mount Vernon ("Charter").

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK ♦ OFFICE OF THE MAYOR ♦ CITY HALL – ROOSEVELT SQUARE ♦
MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK 10550 ♦ (914) 665-2300 ♦ WWW.CMVNY.COM

"The City of Hope"



RICHARD THOMAS
MAYOR

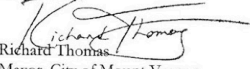
ii. Consider the adequacy of the current form of City government under the Charter; and the intra-municipal relationship of the City's elected branches of government under the Charter.

iii. Consider and propose such revisions or one or more amendments to the Charter, or propose a new charter, that the CMVCRC may determine and recommend as to be appropriate to facilitate the delivery of municipal services to the City's residents, or so that City government may be more efficient, effective, and/or responsive to serve the residents of the City of Mount Vernon.

iv. Make a preliminary report to the public with the findings and proposals of the Charter Revision Commission. Such proposed revisions or amendments to the Charter, or proposed new charter, as may be determined and recommended by the Charter Revision Commission shall then be completed and appropriately filed in the office of the City Clerk for submission to the electors of the City of Mount Vernon.

I think this is an exciting opportunity to work together on behalf of the residents of Mount Vernon and to move this City forward for the benefit of all of the City of Mount Vernon's stakeholders.

Respectfully,


Richard Thomas
Mayor, City of Mount Vernon

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK ♦ OFFICE OF THE MAYOR ♦ CITY HALL - ROOSEVELT SQUARE ♦
MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK 10550 ♦ (914) 663-2300 ♦ WWW.CMVNY.COM

"The City of Hope"



RICHARD THOMAS
MAYOR

**CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT
FOR
CITY OF MOUNT VERNON CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
("CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION" OR "CMVRC")**


Members and Officers of the Charter Revision Commission:

The CMVRC shall consist of thirteen members, all of whom shall be residents of the City of Mount Vernon. The names of the members who shall constitute the Charter Revision Commission, and the officers of the Charter Revision Commission appointed from among those named members of the Charter Revision Commission, are hereby specified as follows:

Derickson K. Lawrence, Chairman
Michael J. Templeton, Vice Chairman
Vanessa E. Ridder, Secretary
William D. McLeod, Co-Vice Chairman
Jeffrey L. Redd
Anitra Hadley
Paul Avery
Ibrahim Abdul-Matin
Jesse L. Askew
Michael Justino
Kevin Cullen
Eileen L. Lambert
Mary Kingsley

Date: May 20, 2019.

Respectfully,


Richard Thomas
Mayor City of Mount Vernon, New York

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK ♦ OFFICE OF THE MAYOR ♦ CITY HALL - ROOSEVELT SQUARE ♦
MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK 10550 ♦ (914) 665-2300 ♦ WWW.CMVNY.COM

"The City of Hope"



RICHARD THOMAS
MAYOR

July 8, 2019

Honorable Members of the City Council
City Hall – 1 Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, New York 10550

Re: City of Mount Vernon Charter Revision Commission (REVISED)

To the Honorable Members of the City Council:

By the powers invested in me pursuant to New York State Municipal Home Rule Law (MHR) Section 36(4), I hereby revise the City of Mount Vernon Charter Revision Commission (Commission) by amending the required Certificate of Appointment to remove one member from the Commission, Jeffrey L. Redd and adding another member to the Commission, Franklyn Williamson.

Respectfully,

Richard Thomas
Mayor, City of Mount Vernon

FILED
CITY CLERK
MOUNT VERNON, NY
2019 JUL -8 A 11:54

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK ◊ OFFICE OF THE MAYOR ◊ CITY HALL - ROOSEVELT SQUARE ◊
MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK 10550 ◊ (914) 665-2300 ◊ WWW.CMVNY.COM

"The City of Hope"



RICHARD THOMAS
MAYOR

REVISED CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT
FOR
CITY OF MOUNT VERNON CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
("CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION" OR "CMVCRC")

Members and Officers of the Charter Revision Commission:

The CMVCRC shall consist of thirteen members, all of whom shall be residents of the City of Mount Vernon. The names of the members who shall constitute the Charter Revision Commission, and the officers of the Charter Revision Commission appointed from among those named members of the Charter Revision Commission, are hereby specified as follows:

Derickson K. Lawrence, Chairman
Michael J. Templeton, Vice Chairman
Vanessa E. Ridder, Secretary
William D. McLeod, Co-Vice Chairman
[Jeffrey L. Redd]
Anitra Hadley
Paul Avery
Ibrahim Abdul-Matin
Jesse L. Askew
Michael Justino
Kevin Cullen
Eileen L. Lambert
Mary Kingsley
Franklyn Williamson

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"The City of Hope"



RICHARD THOMAS
MAYOR

[] – means removed from the City of Mount Vernon Charter Revision Commission
—- means added to the City of Mount Vernon Charter Revision Commission

Date: July 8, 2019.

Respectfully,

Richard Thomas
Mayor City of Mount Vernon, New York

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